

HB 631 Generally Revise Motor Vehicle Laws on Ignition Interlock Requirements

DUI enforcement in Montana today is based upon more than a dozen statutes that impact prevention, enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, sanctions, rehabilitation and driver license administration. HB 631 organizes and clarifies this array of essential statutes and applies proven "best practices" to the critical, complex problem of DUI in Montana.

HB 631 is based upon an approach to reducing impaired driving that has been proven effective. This is an approach that has been endorsed by both Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

With interlock restricted driving, significant reductions can be made to alcohol related traffic fatalities. Encouraging results have already been achieved in New Mexico, Alaska and Washington State.

Prohibit Impaired Driving

The goal of this bill is not prohibit all driving, but to permit necessary driving while reducing impaired driving through use of sobriety programs (24/7), DUI Courts, and ignition interlock.

This bill revises the driver license suspensions, revocations, restrictions and administrative consequences that follow conviction for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Breath Alcohol Concentration (BAC) violations. HB 631:

- Grants authority to the Montana Courts of Limited Jurisdiction for determination of eligibility for any restricted driving;
- Defines important terms;
 - ✓ Essential Driving Purpose
 - ✓ Probationary License
 - ✓ Interlock
 - ✓ Interlock-Restricted License
 - ✓ DUI Court
 - ✓ Sobriety Program
- Authorizes a Probationary License or an Interlock-Restricted License during a Period of Driver License Suspension
 - ✓ Recognizes Distinctions in Authority for DUI Courts, Non-DUI Courts and Felony DUI / BAC Convictions
 - ✓ Allows for Exceptions Based on Court Order:
 - Interlock-Restricted License for 1st DUI/BAC Participant in Sobriety Program
 - ✓ Provides for Work Vehicle Exception for Interlock-Restricted License